

A. Wilson

117 BLOOR STREET,

Toronto, 19<sup>th</sup> March 1877

My Dear Dr Dawson

There is a beautiful poem by Longfellow, styled "The Two Angels," written on the occasion of the birth of one of his own children, at the very time of the death of a child of his friend and brother, poet Bryant; and it occurs to me now, as I congratulate you and dear Mrs Dawson on the birth of your little grandson, Mrs Wilson sends kindest love to Mr Dawson and Anna. She will write by and by. I am sure that Mrs Dawson will not impute to any lack of loving regard for her the failing to do so now. Our dearest Jessie Eleanor caught cold, it settled on her lungs;



My sister was telegraphed for  
and started from London immedi-  
-ately; but before she reached  
Jersey all was over. The dear  
girl expressed a wish to be quiet,  
fell asleep, and awoke in  
the presence of her Saviour.  
We shall be able, ere long, to say  
"Thanks be to God, who doeth  
all things well." But the  
news is sudden, and the loss  
to us irreparable; though to our  
loved one it is her unspeakable  
gain. I was in the very act of  
writing about my little orphaned  
Grandson, offering to adopt him,  
and put him in his mother's place,  
when your letter was put into  
my hand. You and dear Dawson  
will find in the novel relationship  
new fountains of love, such as you  
had no conception of. May the dear  
baby be spared both to be a blessing to the  
dear young mother, and to you all.



But all this is aside from the  
main purport of your letter. I doubt  
if the resemblance between the Easter  
Island hieroglyphics and those of the  
Yucatan inscriptions amounts to  
more than that both are the abori-  
-gines of an ample pictorial  
symbolism. You are, of course,  
aware of the colossal statues from  
Easter Island, of which there is an  
example in the Brit. Mus. Some of  
the same hieroglyphs are found on it,  
and also on the heads of large wooden  
images from the same locality. But  
the sculpture and carving are not  
at all that of Central America.  
Easter Island is on the way to Peru.  
The others probably received it, borrowed  
arts, so far as writing goes, by way  
of the Atlantic. At least the philo-  
-logical analogies seem rather to  
point in that direction. But the  
interesting fact is that the writing  
of such hieroglyphic characters was  
actually in use at least, a century  
ago. You will find a paper  
on the subject, with illustrations,  
in the Journal of the Anthropological



Institute, for 1874; with <sup>Wilson's</sup> ~~some~~  
analyses of the character. If  
you have not access to it, and  
want it immediately, telegraph  
to me, and I shall send you the  
vol. by express.

I return you the specimen which  
you sent to me, as I presume you  
only sent it me to report upon.  
If you examine it with a glass  
carefully, you will see that the  
alternate lines are placed up  
and down; i.e. on reading to  
the end of one line, you should  
then turn the photo. the reverse  
way, and you will find similar  
characters standing right, each  
alternate line being inverted. This  
could only be done in the case of  
small inscriptions to be held in the  
hand. If any long stone-cut inscrip-  
-tions are found, like those of  
Quectan, it will be interesting to  
note how they are arranged. In the  
Palmyra inscriptions (vid. *Palmyra* II. 65)  
they are read in columns from top to bottom.  
Let me know your further wishes.  
Yours faithfully  
Dau. Wilson